

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A cleaning agent for cleaning a surface of an object to be cleaned by ~~producing collision~~ collisions between the cleaning agent and the object, the cleaning agent comprising:

a plurality of particulate bodies made essentially of a material selected from the group consisting of gelatin and animal glue, and containing water contained in the particulate bodies to impart viscosity and elasticity thereto; and

a plurality of stick-free fragments held on an outer surface of each of the particulate bodies, the stick-free fragments ~~serving to prevent the preventing~~ individual particulate bodies from sticking to one another ~~due to the viscosity thereof and to maintain~~ maintaining the particulate bodies in an original shape ~~thereof~~, wherein the cleaning agent is used under conditions where the particulate bodies maintain ~~the~~ their viscosity and ~~the~~ elasticity by retaining the water ~~therein~~ so that the cleaning agent can capture ~~a~~ foreign material on the surface of the object ~~with the aid of the viscosity of the particulate bodies~~.

2. (Original) The cleaning agent according to claim 1, wherein the individual particulate bodies have a particle size of 0.1 mm to 3 mm in diameter.

3. (Currently Amended) The cleaning agent according to claim 2, wherein the stick-free fragments are ~~made of~~ a ceramic material.

4. (Original) The cleaning agent according to claim 3, wherein the individual stick-free fragments have a diameter of 1 μ m to 20 μ m.

5. (Currently Amended) The cleaning agent according to claim 3, wherein the ceramic material includes at least one substance selected from the group consisting of diamond, silicon carbide, alumina, glass, and zirconia.

6. (Original) The cleaning agent according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of the particulate bodies to the water falls within a range of 10:2 to 10:7.

7. (Original) The cleaning agent according to claim 1 further comprising an anti-evaporation substance for preventing evaporation of the water, the anti-evaporation substance being contained in the particulate bodies.

8. (Currently Amended) The cleaning agent according to claim 7, wherein the anti-evaporation substance is a water-soluble oil.

9. (Currently Amended) A cleaning method for cleaning a surface of an object to be cleaned by using a cleaning agent which comprises a plurality of particulate bodies made essentially of a material selected from the group consisting of gelatin and animal glue, the particulate bodies containing water ~~contained in the particulate bodies~~ to impart viscosity and elasticity ~~thereto~~, and a plurality of stick-free fragments held on an outer surface of each of the particulate bodies, the stick-free fragments ~~serving to prevent~~ preventing the individual particulate bodies from sticking to one another ~~due to the viscosity thereof and to maintain~~ maintaining the particulate bodies in an original shape ~~thereof~~, said cleaning method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

~~causing colliding~~ the cleaning agent ~~to collide~~ with the object under conditions ~~where~~ in which the particulate bodies retain the water;

~~capturing~~ a foreign material on the surface of the object with ~~the aid of the viscosity of~~ the particulate bodies; and

removing the foreign material from the surface of the object.

10. (Currently Amended) The cleaning method according to claim 9 further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

after removing the foreign material, ~~washing the surface of the object~~ ~~which has undergone the steps of claim 9 through~~ in a wet-cleaning process ~~performed by~~ using a chlorofluorocarbon-replacing material; and

drying the surface of the object.

11. (Currently Amended) The cleaning method according to claim 10, wherein the foreign material on the surface of the object is a magnetic material, and including bringing the cleaning agent ~~once~~ used for cleaning the object ~~is brought~~ close to a magnet to remove the foreign material from the cleaning agent ~~and reused for reuse in further~~ another cleaning operation.